



WISCONSIN TURFGRASS NEWS

VOL. XV, NO. 1

WINTER 1997

Lambeau Lawn becomes Larger than Life *Tales from "Title Town"*

By Norman Ray, Superintendent, Crystal Springs Golf Course

I'm the golf course superintendent at Crystal Springs Golf Course which is about 15 miles west of Green Bay. My home is in Green Bay and like everyone else, we have suffered through the trials, tribulations and struggles of the Packers over the years. Also like everyone else, we have been sharing in the recent excitement of the past few seasons.

I heard they were planning on resodding the field after the rain drenched game with the 49'ers on Saturday, January 4, 1997, that destroyed the turf. Who would have ever thought turfgrass and sod would be front page stories in newspapers throughout the midwest? I saw on the local TV station that some people were just walking into Lambeau to volunteer themselves towards the effort. Well, I decided this would be a once in a lifetime adventure to also volunteer and felt I would be doing my part for the Packers (and all turf-minded Packer fans everywhere). On Wednesday morning I headed over to Lambeau Field.

After a brief conversation with a guard I walked down onto the field. First of all, it was exciting and inspiring just to take in



Field supervisor, Todd Edlebeck, rolling the sod.

the aura of the stadium. There was an energy in the air. Crews had already removed about half the sod from the field. My first impression was wondering how the job was ever going to get done for the game on Sunday. I wandered around for awhile until I spotted Todd Edlebeck, the field supervisor at Lambeau. I introduced myself and asked if I could help. Todd is a very competent, likable guy who reminds me of a mini Mike Holmgren. He introduced me to the person in charge of the resodding, Jack Kidwell. So, I was on my way.

The project was under the direction of Jack from Duraturf Services Corporation, a sod company from Richmond, Virginia along with Chip Toma from the National Football League, and Todd's crew. Chip was marching around the field. He, Jack and Todd reminded me of generals on a battlefield as we engaged in our war against bad sod!

I felt sorry for the crew from Virginia which consisted of only 11 people. They were really bundled up. The temperature was only in the teens but I didn't hear any complaints about the cold. The rest of the sodding crew consisted of about 10-15 volunteers. One was a high school teacher from Virginia who called the sod company on Monday morning and had 45 minutes to pack up to come with them. Another one was a 55 year old retired General



The sod has yet to be laid where the tarp is located.

Motors worker from Janesville who also had an urge to come and be part of sports history. The crew was a mixture of characters who were quite good workers too. I met Randy Witt, superintendent from Onaida Golf and Riding Club in Green Bay, who was there during both days of the resodding. He was delivering his special mix of topsoil for low spots on the field.

The old sod was really a swampy mess. It had been dyed green but still was showing good signs of life. After the old sod was cut using a sod cutter, they used skid steer loaders to carry it to the parking lot where people were picking it up for souvenirs! Later they had to station a guard there to protect it.

The new sod was 2 inches thick, 42 inches wide and in 48 foot long rolls. It was a pure bluegrass stand grown in what looked like a clay and silt soil. The field itself looked like a silt loam soil. From what I heard there is no drainage system within the field. It is just crowned along

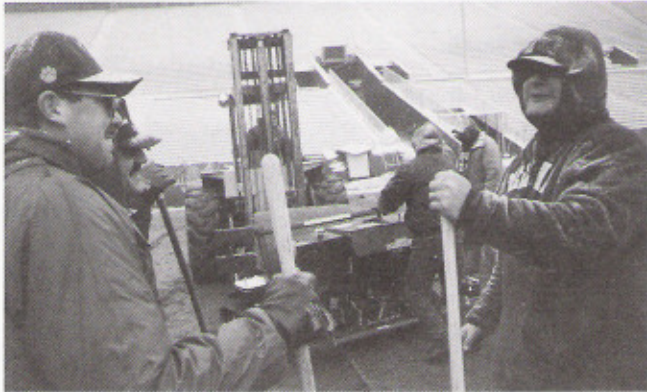
(Continued on page 2)

Lambeau Lawn . . .

(Continued from front page)

the center shedding water to the sidelines, hopefully! The heating coils are buried 6-7 inches below ground. Some of the coils, near the visitors side, were not working very well and they had a hard time cutting the old sod in that area.

The new sod was laid using a small machine on rubber tracks that lifted a roll of sod and then unrolled it. The hard part came in making a tight fit between the pieces. We used what they called "tater forks" (potato) to snag the sod and pull it tight. Four to five people would



Some happy volunteers behind the sod laying machine.

get on one side pulling with the tater forks and four to five on the other side pushing with gravel rakes. We moved down the sod length doing about 10 feet at a time. Each sod piece had to be fitted just like we do on the golf course except that these pieces each weighed over a ton! The wet soil acted like glue underneath. It was not an easy task. With two crews fitting the sod, we were able to lay one row from endzone to endzone in about 15 minutes. The total job of laying the sod took two days. There was some patching that had to be done where the sod was thinned out or where rocks showed up. Afterward, a roller was used to firm the sod to the underlying soil and then the cover was put over it.

It was not a perfect field. That would have been impossible to do in such a short time. It was a good field though and from what I saw during the game it held up really well. John Madden never showed up on the field but we did see him wildly gesturing up in one of the press boxes late on Thursday afternoon. Some of the players

and Coach Holmgren took a quick peek on Wednesday.

Being a part of all this was fun, but also very hard work. I occasionally would ask myself, "What am I doing here?" Every muscle in my body was sore on Friday. But, I felt like I was contributing to part of sports history. There was good camaraderie among the crews along with a real sense of being on a mission; a war against bad sod! After all that work, Todd said the sod will all be taken out and redone again next season because there was too much clay in the sod mix. I had heard reports that the entire project cost between \$100,000 and \$150,000. That's a pretty expensive sod job for one day's use, but worth it. GO PACKERS!!



Norm Ray, the author, experiencing the moment.

President's Message

By Bob Erdahl

The WTA is an organization that in a relatively short period of time has successfully brought together the various disciplines of the Wisconsin turfgrass industry. Through research and education, the WTA has sought to identify turfgrass problems in Wisconsin, fund attempts to find answers to problems, and then disseminate this information to the turfgrass community.

As we begin 1997, I'd like every member of the WTA to consider the following questions: Where does the WTA go from here? Is the WTA helping to solve your turfgrass management problems? Do you feel you are getting a fair return for your support of the WTA? My answer is that substantial good work has been done but we can't be content with just seeing the tip of the iceberg.

Now don't get me wrong, this is not an indictment of any of the past or present work at the Noer Facility. Professors Koval, Kussow, Maxwell, Meyer, Newman, Pellitteri, Rossi and Worf have all done an

admirable job guiding the turfgrass research that has been done at the Noer Facility. Rather, I am simply acknowledging that we must not become complacent. We need to be aggressive and stay abreast of new ideas and new technologies. In fact, it is up to the WTA to lead the way and support the development of those new ideas and new technologies.

What is my point? Simple. The WTA needs to redouble its support of research that has practical applications in everyday turfgrass management. We need to make turfgrass research the driving force behind everything we do.

How do we do this? It's really quite simple. It all boils down to ideas, staff, facilities, and financial support.

First of all, we need ideas. Preferably your ideas. We need to know your problems so that we can support research that will pay you dividends. Take some time to consider the current and future problems in your particular field of turfgrass management. Then give one of the

WTA Board of Directors a call and let them know your concerns.

The next step is to translate your ideas into research that will yield solutions to your problems. For this we need to rely on Professors Kussow, Maxwell, the new Professor of Horticulture that should be on staff by this spring, Jeff Gregos and the staff of the TDDL. This talented group is responsible for designing the research projects that will shed some light on your problems.

Thanks to the WTA, they have the tremendous advantage of being able to conduct their research at the Noer Facility which is one of the nation's finest turfgrass research facilities. With the anticipated expansion of the Noer Facility property and the continuing guidance and support of the WTA, there is no reason to doubt that research results from the Noer Facility will soon be second to none.

What's left? Why money, of course!

(Continued on page 3)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 6-12	GCSAA International Conference	Las Vegas
Feb 19	Midwest Perennial Conference	Country Inn, Pewaukee
Feb 20-22	WLF 1997 Convention	Radison Inn, Green Bay
Feb 24-28	School of Turfgrass Management	WI Center, UW-Madison
Feb 27-March 2	CNI Lawn, Garden & Landscape Show	Expo Center, Waukesha
March 3	WGCSA Spring Business/Education	Ramada Hotel, Fond du Lac
March 12-13	Reinders 13th Turf Conference	Expo Center, Waukesha
March 24	NGLGCSA Turf Symposium	Rhinelander
April 21	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Ives Grove CG, Sturtevant
May 20	Super-Pro (Superintendent-Professional)	The Bog, Saukville
May 28	John Deere Tournament	Green Bay CC, Green Bay
June 17	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Rivermoor CC, Waterford
July 14	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Evansville GC, Evansville
July 30	WLF 25th Anniversary Party	Golden Mast, Okauchee
Aug 4	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	La Crosse CC, Onalaska
Aug 14	WNA Summer Field Day	McKay Nursery, Waterloo
Aug 19	WTA Summer Field Day	Noer Facility, Verona
Aug 23	Homeowner Turf & Yard Field Day	Noer Facility, Verona
Oct 4-5	WGCSA Couples Dinner Dance	Castle Mound GC, La Crosse
Nov 4-5	Wisconsin Turf Symposium	Marriot Hotel, Brookfield

WTA Members – If you have an important date you'd like to share with other members call 608-845-6536 or Fax 608-845-8162 and let us include it in the next calendar.

Abbreviations and Telephone Numbers

CNI Lawn, Garden and Landscape Show, contact Leslie Jorgensen		414-317-8521
GCSAA	Golf Course Superintendents Association of America	800-472-7878
NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.	715-385-2566
Reinders Turf Conference	Contact Ed Devinger	800-785-3301 or 414-786-3301
School of Turfgrass Management, contact Amy Sausen		608-262-1624
WGCSA	Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association	414-786-4303
WLF	Wisconsin Landscape Federation	414-529-4705
WNA	Wisconsin Nursery Association	414-529-4705
WTA	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	608-845-6536

President's Message

(Continued from page 2)

The WTA needs your help to raise additional funds if it is to increase its support of turfgrass research. Towards that end, your 1997 WTA dues were increased by \$25 with the express purpose of generating more money for turfgrass research.

You can also help by recruiting new members and actively participating in the WTA's other revenue producing events: the Summer Field Day, the Golf Outing, and the Winter EXPO. In addition, don't forget to support distributor promotions that contribute a share of the profits to the WTA.

At this point, I feel like a minister preaching to his congregation and asking

them to increase their pledge. And just like that minister, I won't apologize; because whether you realize it or not, our individual futures in the turfgrass industry are tied to the research work that will be done at the Noer Facility. Therefore, we all need to step up and do our fair share.

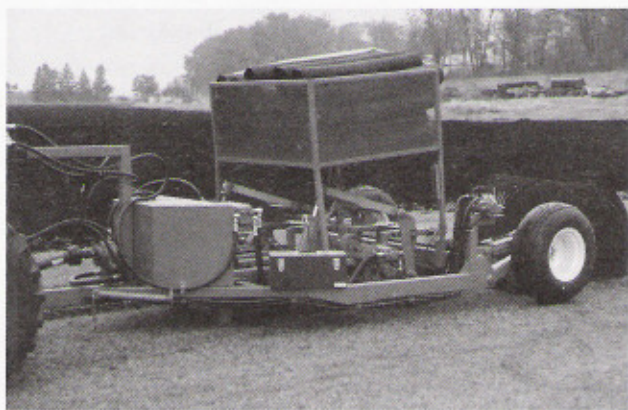
The Wisconsin Turfgrass News

is the official publication of the
Wisconsin Turfgrass Association,
edited by Tom Schwab.
O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research
and Education Facility

Rolling Out Your Own Lambeau Field

By Paul A. Huggett, Long Island Farm, Inc., Turf & Tree Nursery, Marshall

Resodding Lambeau Field after the "Mud Bowl Game" with the San Francisco 49'ers on January 4th put turf on the front pages of many newspapers. Some of those headlines read: "Snow May Be Early Test For New Sod;



Harvesting the sod from the fields.

New Sod Will Make Lambeau Good As New; and A Tale of Two Sodds." During the January 12th Packer and Carolina Panther game on the newly sodded field, there was a Packer banner that read, "Sod It and They Will Come." These headlines and highlights remind us of the Packer's great seasons and conjure up many big roll sod questions: How did they do it so successfully in January? Are there benefits to using big roll sod besides on football fields? Would it work for me in warmer weather?

To help answer these questions, George Brandt of American Sod, Inc. and I presented a talk titled, "Can I Save \$ Using Big Roll Sod?" at the 1997 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO on January 9th. Here are a few things to consider before using and installing big roll sod.

Big roll sod is sold in various sizes depending on the harvester used and soil conditions. Standard dimensions include 30, 42, and 48 inch widths and range from 25 to 100 foot lengths. Total area per roll range from 25 to 50 square yards. Size, variety and availability need to be checked out with your supplier.



Loading a semi for delivery.

There are a few things you should know before you decide whether to use big roll sod or the traditional one square yard rolls. **Accessibility** to the site is an important consideration to observe when you are at the sod installation job site. With big roll sod, you are dealing with a smaller package (a 25-50 square yard roll) compared to a 75 square yard pallet of the traditional size rolls. This translates to more trips from the truck to the installation site. Good access is necessary to unload trucks and get big roll sod to installation equipment quickly.

Project size will help determine whether or not to use big roll sod. It excels in large areas. In smaller areas it may also be used, but consider obstacles such as trees, light poles, fencing, etc. that might hinder installation equipment.

Does it need big roll sod? Yes, in the case of Lambeau Field, because the job had to be done quickly, stay in place, and have few seams. If your customer or green committee requires a seamless look and faster access, the answer may also be yes. It may also fit the needs if erosion control is needed in a hurry.

When will the project be done? Larger projects for which big roll sod is a good choice may be delayed until fall. The soil dries out slowly during this season. Wet soils may impair the big roll installation equipment. Know when the project will be ready for sod and prepare accordingly.

Have support from owners and staff. Educate them about what is to be done. Irrigation systems should be tested before

sod installation. Communicate with owners, engineers and architects about unloading, fitting and trimming so they understand their and your requirements. Be sure to communicate and know who is going to be doing each part of the job, before you start.

Once you go big you can't go back. When you plan to install thousands of yards of sod a day, be sure you are ready. The sod needs to be installed quickly. There is little you can do once it is on the job site. If you are delayed, the sod may start to overheat. You can't send it back. Be sure all equipment is in top operating condition. Rain is an important factor with big roll sod because you have to go on bare soil with installation equipment rather than with just people power. You can't avoid the rain, but planning ahead can alleviate some problems.

How fast can you go? If you're sodding along a highway which has few obstacles, you can install a semi trailer load of sod in an hour. If you're sodding Milwaukee County



Installing the big rolls for an instant home lawn.

Stadium or a golf course where the delivery truck may be 1/2 mile away, then 400 - 800 yards per hour might be more accurate. For a comparison, laying pallets of the traditional size rolls along the same highway with few obstacles would take two or three times longer than with big rolls and need more laborers. It might be easier to install traditional sod rolls in an obstacle filled area with poor access.

Can the customer pay? Ordering several semi trailer loads of sod can add up to a large bill quickly. Be sure to confirm financial arrangements ahead of time and know who you are dealing with.

Once you have decided that big roll sod is the best method, then you need to look at **installation**. Check the site ahead of time, including the quality of the finish grading.

(Continued on page 5)

WTA Members Eligible for Discount on Pesticide Disposal Fees in 1997

By Brian Pruka, Information Manager, The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection



Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA) members are eligible for a 60% fee reduction on pesticides they dispose of at Ag Clean Sweep events in 1997. Ag Clean Sweep is the safest and cheapest way for pesticide applicators, including small ag businesses and farms, to dispose of their chemical waste. WTA obtained this benefit for its members by signing up as a "1997 Clean Sweep Partner" with the Agricultural Clean Sweep Program. Ag Clean Sweep offered WTA this 60% discount (regular customers get 50%) in return for distributing Clean Sweep preregistration packets through the WTA. Typical savings are illustrated below:

	Clean Sweep	Private Waste Hauler
Pick-up charge	\$0	\$200
Solvent disposal charge	\$75 (\$2.50/lb. x 30 lbs.)	\$ 90 (\$3/lb. x 30 lbs.)
Pesticide disposal charge*	\$45 (\$1.25/lb. x 40 lbs.)	\$120 (\$3/lb. x 40 lbs.)
(*includes a pesticide subsidy from WI Dept. of Ag, plus a 10% discount for WTA members)		
TOTAL COST	\$120	\$410

As a Clean Sweep Partner, WTA is also eligible to sponsor a mini-Clean Sweep for its members. If a couple dozen of WTA members with waste chemicals are located within 30 or so miles of a central collection point, then the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection may set up an additional clean sweep sight for this group.

Ag Clean Sweeps are being held in 26 counties in Wisconsin this year. The counties and dates of the spring Clean Sweeps are listed below.

Ashland May 3rd	Jackson May 17	Taylor June 13, 14
Barron May 17	LaCrosse June 24	Walworth June 7
Chippewa June 25- 27	Langlade June 20, 21	Washburn May 2, 3
Eau Claire June 25- 27	Outagamie April 18, 19	
Iowa June 21	Price June 13, 14	

Dates for fall Clean Sweeps will be printed in the next WTA newsletter. Fall Counties include: Grant, Jefferson, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marinette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Oconto, Ozaukee, Portage, Waukesha, Winnebago.

You must preregister to participate in Ag Clean Sweep. To receive an Ag Clean Sweep preregistration form, call 608-845-TURE. For further information about Ag Clean Sweep, contact Roger Springman, Manager, 608-224-4545.

Agricultural Clean Sweep is a chemical waste disposal program cooperatively run by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), local county governments, and Advanced Environmental Technical Services (AETS), a private waste hauler. This program has helped nearly 6,000 farmers to dispose of over 350 tons of hazardous chemical waste since 1990.

Rolling Out Your Own Lambeau Field

(Continued from page 4)

Be sure the unloading equipment is capable of doing the job. Have sod in place at the job site before installation crews arrive. Since there are 30-40 tubes per semi, decide



Laying out the big rolls for a roadside job.

how to handle the empty tubes after the sod is rolled out.

Select the **equipment** to install the sod. Equipment options used to install big roll sod are: a skid steer with an attachment, a walk behind self propelled track machine, a 3 pt. on a tractor, a boom crane, and a chain or manual push. Make sure that you are familiar with using it. Double check the equipment to make sure it's ready to go. For every installing machine you need 3-5 support people to supply the sod, do the fitting, and haul away empty tubes.

Hopefully this short list will give you a few ideas about big roll sod. "When It's All Sod & Done" (USA Today Lambeau Field headline), the answer is: Yes, you can save \$ using big roll sod in many situations. Like most things, you just have to know what you're getting into before you start.



Instant roadside erosion control.

Turf Disease Diagnostic Lab (TDDL) on the World Wide Web

<http://www.wisc.edu/plhealthser/tddl/tddl.htm>

By Jeff Gregos, Research Specialist, Department of Plant Pathology

This is an unusual article because the glossary is at the beginning instead of the end. If you understand computers and the internet please skip the glossary.

Glossary:

Baud Rate: the speed at which a modem transfers information via a phone line

Browser: a computer program that enables you to view documents written in HTML language

Download: to transfer programs or documents from a remote site using your computer

E-mail: a section of the internet that enables you to send written communications from one computer to another

Freeware: software that is obtainable free of charge through downloading

Home Page: the index page of a Web site

HTML: a computer language used to display multimedia publications with hyperlinks ("hot-spots")

Hyperlink: a section of text or image map that allows you to jump to a new page by clicking on it

Image Map: a way of assigning hyperlinks to an image using designated areas on the image

Internet: a communication network that enables computers all over the world to communicate with each other via phone lines

Internet Access Provider: a company that provides software and service to access the internet by calling a phone number using a modem

Modem: a communication device that enables a computer to talk to other computers using phone lines

Multimedia: a computer publication consisting of sound, pictures, and/or video

Search Engines: a site on the Web that allows you to do key word searches of the entire Web

World Wide Web: a part of the internet that enables multimedia productions

Turf managers today are very fortunate to live in the information age. With the advancement of computer technology, a wealth of turf related information is

just a mouse click away (not the little furry thing). One of my responsibilities is maintenance of the Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Laboratory's World Wide Web Site (don't worry there are no spiders to be found here). Within this site we have around fifty pages of information pertaining to turfgrass diseases. In this article, I will describe how to get on the internet, what is available for you to do and see once you are connected to the internet, and provide information about the TDDL Web site.

So let's walk you through some of the basics. To gain access to the web you must set up an account with an internet access provider. An internet access provider will give you software and a phone number in order to access all parts of the internet. There are two essentials for new "surfers" (users) of the internet. The long board and sun screen, just joking! An e-mail program and browser software (explained in the glossary) are necessary. With these, you are almost ready to go, but I forgot the hardware. No not the surfboard, but your computer and modem. If you are purchasing a computer for the first time, do some research. Ask a friend or someone who knows about computers before you go out and buy something. There are more options available on computers today than makes of cars, and it is tough to make the right decision on a computer without doing some homework. As for a modem, buy the fastest one you can afford. You should look for one with at least a baud rate of 28,800. 33,600 is even better. So choose wisely and invest for the future, invest in the future.

Now you have what you need, let's go explore the Web. The World Wide Web (WWW) could be compared to an encyclopedia, just a collection of pages upon pages of information. From the web, you can do everything from ordering airline tickets to finding which chemical will work in controlling gray snow mold. There are several ways of finding information on the WWW. The easiest way to access an internet site

of importance is to enter the address, if you know it. Not the street address, but the little letters and numbers that you saw at the bottom of your TV screen during the one-hundred and one commercials during the Super Bowl or on the cover of every magazine that is published today. The address will usually consist of something like this, <http://www.wisc.edu>.

If you are not lucky enough to know the address, you can use a Web search engine to help you locate the information that you are looking for. One of the latest search engines that I have found is Alta Vista, found at the address <http://www.altavista.com>. Once you reach a search engine, you can type in key words to find articles relating to your topic of choice. One word of advice, use phrases or single words as much as possible, because search engines look for every article that contains your key words. So, if you enter TURFGRASS DISEASES, your results will include every article that contains TURFGRASS, and every article that contains DISEASES. This may result in a query that contains as many as 100,000 articles. I don't know about you, but I don't have months or even years to go through all those articles. As you see, search engines are only as smart as you make them. One thing nice about Alta Vista is you can do advanced searches. You can use key separator words such as, AND, OR, etc. and it will cross reference them and reduce the number of matches (see Fig. 1). It also has the capability to search by date, which is a nice feature.

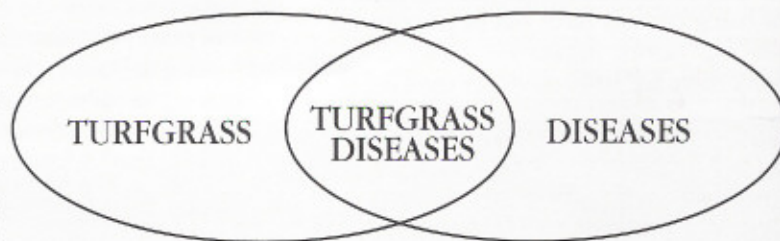


Fig. 1 Most search engines will give you results filling both ovals. Alta Vista can give you results filling the oval of intersection.

Another useful way to search for topics is to use a company name. Many of the companies on the web have addresses
(Continued on page 7)

Turf Disease Diagnostic Lab (TDDL) . . .

(Continued from page 6)

with their name in it. You could type in addresses such as www.packers.com, and you will get the Green Bay Packers home page, or www.toro.com and you should know where you will end up. So, about now you are probably wondering what "www." and ".com" mean. Well, they are sort of like directions. The "www." tells the browser to look on the World Wide Web for the information. Other similar directions are "gopher" and "ftp", which are other sections of the internet you may come across on your travels. As for the ".com" (commercial), this tells the browser what directory to find the page in. Once again there are several different options here, ".edu" (education), ".org" (organization), ".gov" (government), just to name a few. You might have seen the GCSAA's address which is www.gcsaa.org. Since they are a non-profit organization, their address has an ".org" ending.

Now let's concentrate on the real reason for this article, the TDDL Web Site, <http://www.wisc.edu/plhealthser/tddl/tddl.htm>. This may someday become a superintendent's best friend, along with his dog of course (to scare the geese away). If you enter this site you are entering a new realm of turfgrass pathology information, and are on the cutting edge of technology. What we provide is just about everything that you would want to know about turfgrass diseases and how they relate to you in Wisconsin.

On our Home Page, which is more or less like an index of a book, we have several choices for you, from Disease Alerts to an Identification Key. Now for more computer jargon, each one of the entries in the index is "hyperlinked." In other words, it is like the remote control on your TV, you press a button and it takes you to a new channel, except in this case it will take you to a different page. So while you are browsing and you see a word that is a different color and underlined you know it is hyperlinked and will send you to a different page. Another form of a hyperlink is "image mapping." Image mapping splits a picture into many little polygons, allowing different parts of a picture to be linked to different pages. The map of Wisconsin

on our Disease Alerts page is an example of an image map. Each region of the map is linked to that region's alert. This provides easy access to information related to the region of interest.

So you ask what is available on here that will help me out? Well, here is a quick rundown of the current contents and some upcoming additions.

- **General info. about the TDDL**

This area includes information on the services provided by the lab, cost of sample analysis, and how to submit a sample. Coming soon you will be able to download a Sample Submission form that you can print with the help of a freeware program called Adobe Acrobat Reader (available at <http://www.adobe.com>).

- **Disease Alerts**

I will be in timely contact with superintendents and extension agents throughout the state, providing information related to turfgrass diseases, soil temperatures, and any other relevant information pertaining to the development of turfgrass diseases in the different regions of the state. To make this the best it can be I will need information relayed from you, to help out all the people of our profession. Several superintendents have volunteered to be "Disease Alert Scouts."

- **Sample Record**

You want to see what kind of samples we get in? This is the place where we keep our running tally of sample diagnoses.

- **Disease Profiles**

Just about every disease that you may come across in Wisconsin is described here. I have included information on symptoms, environmental requirements for disease development, and management measures, just to name a few. There are also hyperlinks to pictures, so you can see it to believe it. I hope to add to the picture collection over the next year so it will only get better and better.

- **Upcoming Events in the Turfgrass World**

Did you miss that meeting last week? Now you have no excuse to miss them because they are provided for you here. If you want a meeting or conference posted here, drop me an e-mail (jsg@plantpath.wisc.edu).

- **Current Turfgrass Pathology Research at the UW - Madison**

If you want to know what we are up

to, here is your chance. We have articles on current research and field trials that we are conducting. As soon as data is available from the field trial this will be posted. So, if you are looking for a chemical to replace the Mercury (that some of you have stockpiled), check out this site in the spring for snow mold control evaluation results.

- **TDDL Personnel**

This is the place to see our ugly mugs and find out what we have done with our lives.

- **Leave a Message for the TDDL Personnel**

If you have a desire to ask us a question or send us fan mail this is one way to do it. Sorry, our computer automatically rejects any hate mail!

- **Map to the O. J. Noer Center**

If you want to submit a sample in person, there is no way we will let you get lost.

- **Turfgrass Disease Identification Keys**

Currently, we have a key based on weather conditions and symptoms. This key has easy to follow directions. I recently received approval from Pat Sander (retired professor of turfgrass pathology, Penn State) to include her microscopic identification key, so that any of you that have microscopes can become amateur diagnosticians.

This is just a brief overview of what we've got, but to really enjoy our site you have to check it out for yourself. Also if you see a dancing envelope on some of the pages, you are not having a flashback. If you click on it with your mouse, you will be able to send me an E-mail to tell me how you enjoyed the site (my computer will occasionally accept constructive criticism E-mails).

To end, I just want to say that I hope that you enjoy and benefit from our site. Also, remember that we are looking for a few good men or women to help us out as "Scouts" with our Disease Alert Section. So pitch in and help out the members of your profession. E-mail me at jsg@plantpath.wisc.edu, if you are up to the challenge. Finally, I have to put in a plug for our fund raising campaign. Programs like these do not grow on sand-based root-zone media, but are supported by the industry. So if you think the TDDL and turfgrass pathology research is important to your industry, you are going to have to help us out. We are only as good as our supporters make us.

Education and Equipment Come Together for Successful 1997 EXPO

By Tom Schwab

The best of both worlds made for a successful 1997 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO. This 14th annual conference has become famous among turfgrass and green industry professionals for bringing together a fine educational offering and a trade show second to none. This year was no exception. The conference took place at the Holiday Inn-West Madison, Convention Center on January 8, 9, and 10.

There were two main days of educational presentations and a third optional day to obtain pesticide applicator training and take a test to receive a Wisconsin pesticide applicator certification. The trade show was the largest and best ever with 70 companies showing their wares in this large and nicely arranged convention facility. That is 9 more companies than last year's record number of participants. Working the booths were 148 knowledgeable sales personnel ready to answer your every question.

The attendance at this year's EXPO was also huge despite getting two inches of snow on the second day. There were 382 registered attendees that came to learn more about how to succeed in their chosen turfgrass related professions.

The roster of speakers was quite impressive. Their topics covered sportsfield, golf, lawn care, sod, wildlife, environmental, and employee concerns. The conference started out with the traditional opening session. The University of Wisconsin - Madison Turf Research Group gave a short synopsis of their work being conducted at the Noer Facility and at other sites located throughout Wisconsin. After that many scholarships from the Wisconsin turfgrass industry were presented. A list of the scholarships donors, turf student recipients, and amounts given are listed here:

Donor	Recipient	Amount
AgrEvo	Brad Smith	\$500
AgrEvo	Tara Zabkowicz	\$500
Spring Valley	Sheri Barlow	\$500
Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	Jamie Johnson	\$600
Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	Joel Peterson	\$600
Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	Bill Hart	\$600
Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	Nathan Rohde	\$600



Ed Devinger, Reinders Turf Equipment, presents the Reinders/Daconil donation check to Wayne Horman, WTA president, to be used for turfgrass research at the UW-Madison.

The trade show began after the opening session. I think attendees were really awestruck at how large and professionally laid out this part of EXPO has become. To think it was just a table top exhibition with no equipment just eight or so years ago. That was enough to work up a good appetite for lunch. The Holiday Inn accommodated everyone with a delicious buffet during both days of EXPO.

A significant amount of research donations were presented to the Wisconsin Turfgrass Assoc. These included:

Donor	Recipient	Amount
Reinders/Bayer Program	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$500
Reinders/Daconil Program	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$6,875 in 1996 Over \$52,000 in past 9 years
Spring Valley/Milorganite Program	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$640
WI Turf Equip./Milorganite Program	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$780
Horst Distr./Milorganite Program	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$1,570
Cannon Turf Supply Program	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$322
WI Sod Producers	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$875
WI Golf Course Supt. Assoc.	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$10,000
Northern Great Lakes GCSA	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$400
Bull's Eye Country Club	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$1,255
Riverview Country Club	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$1,000
Steven's Point Country Club	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$1,245
Westmoor Country Club	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	\$2,770 in 1996 \$23,120 in past 8 years

The part of the show that most attendees come for started on Wednesday afternoon - the educational sessions. Comments were that they were outstanding this year. Dr. Wayne Kussow, in a couple of commendable presentations, provided his findings on managing turfgrass nutrition. He also had good research information on root zone mixes, products used to alleviate isolated dry spots, whether nutrition effects disease incidence, putting green management decisions, and environmental concerns like runoff and leaching.

In addition to Wayne there was a strong contingent of expertise that also came from the UW-Madison. That included Wildlife Ecologist Scott Craven, Entomologist Phil Pellitteri, Plant Pathologist Jennifer Parke, Horticulturists Amy Sausen and Jerry Doll, and Plant Pathologists Doug Maxwell, Steven Millett, Gary Gaard, and Jeff Gregos. Scott Craven presented good information on reducing

(Continued on page 9)

Education and Equipment . . . (Continued from page 8)



Chad Ball makes a point to get back to Wisconsin every year; pictured here, visiting with Ed Witkowski of Pendelton Turf Supply.

damage from nuisance wildlife and enhancing habitat for desirable ones on the golf course. Phil Pellitteri in his usual great style presented information on what insect pests may be a problem this coming season and what, if anything, can be done about it. Jennifer Parke, a newcomer to the turf business, gave a presentation on biological controls of turf diseases. The four plant pathologists gave a workshop on information retrieval using the computer. You can read more about that in Jeff Gregos' article in this newsletter. Amy Sausen and Jerry Doll gave a three hour, hands-on workshop on turf and weed identification that was well received.

The presentations from non-UW-Madison folks were also memorable. Hank Wilkinson from the University of Illinois gave two very informative turf disease presentations. He has a great demeanor that is fun to listen to and we seem to never exhaust of hearing good turf disease information. Skip Lynch from Seed Research of Oregon gave a talk about native grasses;

where, how, and why to use them. His slide presentation did not arrive in the mail on time so a few people were disappointed because they didn't have a picture to visualize what he was saying. He overcame the mishap quite effectively by painting the picture with his words.

Grounds and sportsturf managers were fed a full plate with talks by Dave Mellor, grounds manager of County Stadium, Mike Kelly from Glenn Rehbein Company, and Dr. Don Taylor, plant pathology and earth services professor from UW-River Falls. They talked about special challenges of managing sportsturf, the proper way to construct and build a sportsfield, and the importance of soil physical properties in sportsturf settings.

Professor Ed McCoy from Ohio State, gave a very detailed workshop on putting green construction. Tom Delaney, from the Professional Lawn Care Association



The trade show was full.

of America, updated lawn care professionals on current regulations and laws which effect that industry and gave tips on practical ways to communicate lawn care issues with the public. Joe Bilskemper, a lawn care specialist from La Crosse, presented an interesting and humorous slide show on developing a professional image in the lawn care industry.

Additional memorable talks were presented by Craig Reinders and Adam Mock from Reinders Irrigation, Paul Huggett and George Brandt (two Wisconsin sod producers), Tom Jacobs from QTI-Human Resources, and Virgil Meier from the Scotts Company. They filled out the educational sessions with talks about latest irrigation technologies, using big-roll turfgrass sod, employee leasing, and turfgrass breeding and development. I wish I could have seen them all because they were reported to be "top-notch."

The planning committee did a great job organizing the 1997 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO. Those individuals are Chris Wendorf (chairperson), Paul Huggett (secretary), Amy Sausen, Wayne Kussow, and Doug Maxwell (advisors), and Audra Anderson and Tom Schwab (committee members). The show's behind-the-scenes volunteers from the Badger Turf and Grounds Club helped out very much during the conference and UW Department of Horticulture's secretary Karen Denk gave experienced help with running of the registration table. We thank all these folks.

We ask your help with the planning of next year's EXPO. Please help us by completing the post conference questionnaire when you receive it in the mail in early February. We are already making plans for next year's conference and need your input to make sure EXPO 1998 will be a success.

Listed here are the trade show participants in EXPO 1997. They will be available with supplies and advice to help you succeed with your business in 1997 and beyond.

Absorbent Technologies Inc.
AgrEvo USA Company
All-American Supply
Aquatic Biologists, Inc.
B & G Consultants, Inc.
Badger Turf & Grounds Club
Bayer Corp.
Cannon Turf Supply
Century Rain Aid
Check Signature Inc./Trioxilift Inc.
Chipco Specialty Products
Ciba Turf and Ornaments
Conserv F/S
Contree Sales, Inc.
Data Transmission Network
F S Seed / Division of Growmark
Glenn Rehbein Companies
Graves Feick Golf, Ltd.

Greensmix
Hanley Company, Inc.
Horst Distributing, Inc.
Horst Distributing, Inc.
IMC Vigoro
ISK Biosciences
J.W. Turf
Joe Cooling and Sons
Johnson & Associates
KEI
Kellogg Inc. Seed & Supplies
L. L. Olds Seed Company
Land Pride Turf
Lange-Stegmann Company
Lebanon Turf Products
Lesco, Inc.
Marine Biochemists
Mechanical Soil Technology

Medalist America Turfgrass Seed Co.
Melcher Equipment
Michaels Company
MidAmerCo, Inc.
Milorganite
Olsen Distributing Company
Par Aide Products Company
Pendelton Turf Supply, Inc.
Porter-Achtenhagen Seasonal Services Ltd.
Precision Labs
Pro Greens of the Midwest
Pro Green Plus
ProLawn
Reinders, Inc. - Irrigation Division
Reinders Turf Equipment
Scotts Company
Spring Valley
T.J. Emmerich Associates, Inc.

Tee Shot Marketing, Inc.
Terra International
Trelay, Inc.
Turf Disease Diagnostic Lab (TDDL)
Turf Products Ltd.
Tyler Enterprises
United Horticultural Supply
W.A. Cleary Chemical Corp.
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection
Wheeler Consolidated, Inc.
Williams & Gill, Golf Course Architects
Wisconsin Turf Equipment Corp.
Wisconsin Turf Equipment Corp.
Wolosek Golf Course Mix
Zeneca Professional Products



Dr. Hank Wilkinson from the University of Illinois presented important turf disease information.



John Turner presents the annual UW-Madison/AgroEvo turf student scholarship to Brad Smith and Tara Zabkowitz.

Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab 3 Year Fund Raising Campaign 1997 - 1999

By Bob Erdahl, WTA President

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association needs your help to insure the success of the Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab (TDDL) at the OJ Noer Facility. Currently, the WTA and UW-Madison are equal partners in providing the funds to run the lab. It is the WTA's intention to help fund the TDDL through 1999. The plan for the TDDL in 2000 and beyond, involves a combination of support from the UW-Madison, the turfgrass industry, revenue from the lab itself, and revenue from a "Turfgrass User Fee" that will be passed on to the consumers of turfgrass products.

In 1996, the TDDL's first year of operation, the WTA met its share of the funds through twenty \$1,000 donations from distributors, golf courses, and lawn care companies. In order to provide its share of support for the TDDL over the next 3 years, the WTA has developed a fund raising campaign. Please note, that the WTA has made every effort to reward your pledges with benefits of equal value. Also notice, that the WTA has made it possible for you to participate at many different

levels of support. The WTA's goal is not only to raise money, but also to develop a broad base of support for the work done at the TDDL. An explanation of the benefits that you'll receive at the different yearly support levels is explained here.

Yearly Support Level

	\$100	\$200	\$500	\$1,000
Benefits				
1. Number of Free Samples	1	2	5	10
2. Priority Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3. One-Day Seminar at TDDL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4. On-Site Diagnostic Visit	No	No	No	Yes

1. Your free samples include a shipping box for each sample.
2. You receive priority service on all of your samples.
3. You and your staff are invoiced to participate in a one-day, disease diagnostic seminar at the OJ Noer Facility.

4. The staff of the TDDL will make an on-site visit to your facility to aid in the diagnosis of your turfgrass disease problems.

The WTA recognizes that it may be difficult to participate in this fund raising campaign without some special provisions for your pledges. With that in mind, the TDDL will send out yearly invoices for your payments that are titled, "TDDL SERVICE CONTRACT". The invoices will have the appearance of a normal bill that lists the services provided and the fee for those services.

Make plans now to support the TDDL in 1997-1999. Choose one of the working support levels and include it in your budget for the coming years. Working together, we can insure the future of a valuable asset to the Wisconsin Turfgrass Industry - the TDDL. Thank you for your support.

For more information, please contact Bob Erdahl at North Shore Country Club: 414-242-7019 or Audra Anderson at the Noer Facility: 608-845-6536.

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2944
Madison, WI

WISCONSIN TURFGRASS ASSN.
O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research & Education Facility
3101 Hwy M
Verona, WI 53593-9537